



Iza Ferreira shows Brazil specialties in Timp gem and mineral exhibit.

1 man's skipping stone is another's treasure

By Clark H. Caras
Deseret News correspondent

SPANISH FORK — One man's trash is another man's treasure — just like one man's skipping stone might be another man's piece of jewelry or beautifully sculptured and carved belt buckle.

For those people who are members of the Timpanogos Gem and Mineral Society of Utah County those rocks that others might kick out of the way are potential works of art. This past weekend, the general public saw the creations of those Rock Hounds.

The annual Timpanogos Gem and Mineral Show, held at the Utah County Fairgrounds in Spanish Fork, offered a chance to see what can be done in a hobby whose slogan is, "Old Rock Hounds never die — they just petrify."

Displayed at the show were hundreds of display cases filled with rocks, jewelry, carvings, and specialty collections such as butterflies. One case was made up of dishes and cutlery from early western railroads. Throughout the show visitors saw demonstrations on how to make jewelry, choose precious stones, and carve figures from rocks.

One of those demonstrating her art was Merelda Shinkle, Orem, who specializes in carving figures out of all kinds of stones. Surrounded by dozens of interested school children, Mrs. Shinkle talked about how she went from a elementary school soap sculpture flunkie to a nationally recognized artist in her field.

"When I was in school we had to do some soap carvings and I think my teacher thought I was real bad. I even surprised myself when I started to do this in 1969. I didn't know I could do it, but I knew I just wanted to," Mrs. Shinkle said.

In a display case near Mrs. Shinkle's demonstration were examples of her work which looked as if they might swim, fly, or walk away at any moment. Her favorite pieces are seahorses and fish swimming through coral reefs.

"Sometimes you just find a rock and you can see something in it. It is a challenge and wonderful experience to be able to bring that thing out of the rock," Mrs. Shinkle said.

The Shinkles had always been interested in rock collecting and active in making jewelry and other rock displays, but Mrs. Shinkle said she became bored with the lack of challenge that created for her so she picked up some carving tools.

"This is certainly not a fast hobby. A good piece in hard stone may take up to 100 hours. Sometimes I'll buy an expensive stone to work on and I'm afraid to work on it for fear of ruining it. That is when it takes longer because I have to get my courage up," Mrs. Shinkle said.

Not very many of her works have been sold or even given away as gifts, she said, because, "I'm a little selfish and most of them I keep. It's like watching a child grow up. You invest a lot of time and love into and you just hate to see it go."

Many of Mrs. Shinkle's works would fit into the palm of a hand. Her carvings of small kittens, birds, fish, ducks, bears, and dogs all look as if they might suddenly jump up and run away.

Holding several of these small carvings in her hands, Mrs. Shinkle apologizes for not having done her nails. Then she reveals one of the only drawbacks there is about her hobby.

"You don't generally have pretty hands when you work with rock. You tend to wear your fingernails away," Mrs. Shinkle said.



Lehi goalie Todd Smith makes a save in a recent 3A soccer game. Smith is

Provo moves to state after defeating Lehi

By Bill Current

Utah County sports director

PROVO — The Bulldogs' offense scored once in each half and the defense shut down the Lehi Pioneers to claim a 2-0 inter-regional victory and a berth in this week's state 3A soccer tournament.

Lehi, representing Region 8 as its third-place team, joins Payson, a Saturday loser to Timpview, among the teams waiting until next year for another shot at state.

"I'm really proud of the way they played," said Lehi Coach Jim Howe. "They played excellent. They gave it their best. They kept trying, and that's the way they played all year."

The Pioneers didn't defeat themselves; they were outplayed by a spirited Provo team. Led by tough defense by goalie Tom Burger, the Bulldogs held off

several Lehi scoring attempts late in the game to preserve the win.

"He's a super goalie," said Provo Coach Bailey. "He's been making tremendous saves all year. I think he's the best goalie in the state."

Less than three minutes after the Bulldogs missed a penalty kick in the first half, Provo's offense put Provo ahead 1-0 after recovering the ball that had bounced off the back of the defender.

In second-half action the two teams again came out close. Provo squeezed out a 2-0 score with 25 minutes left to play off a corner kick.

"I wasn't too happy with the way we played in the first half," Bailey said. "But I thought we played more as a team in the second half."

Y. women tracksters 2nd

Deseret News special

EUGENE, Ore. — Pie West won the long jump with a personal best of 19-9 and Melinda Clark took the high jump with a 5-9½ for the only Cougar victories in a three-way track meet Saturday with Oregon and California.

In team scoring, Oregon bested BYU, 103-33, and California, 110-24, while the Cougars topped the Golden Bears 75-58.

"We weren't as strong as we'd have liked to be, but at least we beat Cal," Cougar coach Craig Poole said.

The Cougars did not reach any national-qualifying marks, but three athletes in addition to West

achieved personal bests: Kathy Merrett, 136-5; Noeleen Mullan, 1,500-meter run, 4:23.5; Christine Washburn, discus, 132-8.

Cougar finishers:

Long jump — 1, Pie West, 19-9. 6, Shari Coleman, 17-6. 3, Catherine Zuniga, 14-10. 4, Kathleen Cook, 13-6-5.

3,000-meter run — 3, Jill Holaday, 9:33.60. 6, Noeleen Mullan, 9:46.23. 7, Jocelyn Whitehead, 9:49.82. 8, Angela Bridgeman, 9:53.57.

400-meter relay — 3, BYU, Lori Thayne, Ann Kim West, Stephanie Peery, 47.87.

1,500-meter run — 2, Noeleen Mullan, 4:23.5. 3, Christine Washburn, 4:26.88.

100-meter hurdles — 4, Lisa Budge, 14.95. 5, Lisa Budge, 14.96.

400-meter dash — 3, Angela Bridgeman, 56.40.